

What is claimed is:

1. A modular selection button for actuating contact elements comprising
 - 1 a housing (6);
 - 2 a finger-grip knob (10), a rotary knob (11) or the like as rotating handle;
 - 3 a transmission member (4; 5) which is non-rotatably coupled to the handle (10; 11) and supported in the housing (6) and carries an axially acting switching cam;
 - 4 stop means including stops which are fixed relative to the housing (6) and counterstops which can be rotated using the handle (10; 11) and which serve for limiting the angle of rotation of the handle (10; 11);
 - 5 at least one switch plunger (81) which is supported in the housing (6) in a manner that it is non-rotatable as well as axially movable against spring means (82) and which cooperates frontward with the switching cam via a symmetrically formed end face (86), the switching cam and the end face (86) being designed in such a manner that the transmission member (4; 5) latches onto the switch plunger (81) when a specific angle of rotation with respect to the resting position is reached;

wherein

- 3.1 the transmission member (4; 5) has a disk-shaped design and carries axially projecting switching cam elements (42; 52) on the rear side (41; 51);
- 4.1 when working with a latching rotated position with respect to the resting position, the stop means which act for the specific direction are:
 - 4.1.1.1 in the case of three switching positions: first stop means including a first stop (66) in the housing (6) and a first counterstop (14) in the handle (10; 11),
 - 4.1.1.2 on the other hand, in the case of two switching positions: second stop means including a second stop (68) in the housing (6) and a second counterstop (59) on the transmission member (5);
- 4.2 when working with a momentary-contact rotated position with respect to the resting position, the stop means which act for the specific direction are:
 5. fifth stop means including a second stop slide (92) which is to be inserted into

the housing (6) in a latchable manner and a fourth counterstop (47; 57) on the transmission member (4; 5), the angular distance in the direction of rotation between the decisive second stop face (95) of the second stop slide (92) and the fourth counterstop (47; 57) being smaller than the angular distance between the first or the second stop means (66, 16; 68, 59), respectively.

2. A modular selection button for actuating contact elements comprising

- 1 a housing (6);
- 2 a rotating handle (2);
- 3 a transmission member (4'; 5') which is non-rotatably coupled to the handle (2) and supported in the housing (6) and carries an axially acting switching cam;
- 4 stop means including stops which are fixed relative to the housing (6) and counterstops which can be rotated using the handle (2) and which serve for limiting the angle of rotation of the handle (2);
- 5 at least one switch plunger (81) which is supported in the housing (6) in a manner that it is non-rotatable as well as axially movable against spring means (82) and which cooperates frontward with the switching cam via a symmetrically formed end face (86), the switching cam and the end face (86) being designed in such a manner that the transmission member (4'; 5') latches onto the switch plunger (81) when a specific angle of rotation with respect to the resting position is reached;

wherein

- 2.1 the handle is a key actuator (2);
- 3.1 the transmission member (4'; 5') has a disk-shaped design and carries axially projecting switching cam elements (42; 52) on the rear side (41; 51),
- 4.1 when working with a latching rotated position with respect to the resting position, the stop means which act for the specific direction are:
 - 4.1.2.1 with key (21) being releasable in the rotated position: third stop means including a third stop (28) which is fixed with respect to the housing (6) and a third counterstop (48'; 58') on the transmission member (4'; 5'),
 - 4.1.2.2 on the other hand, with key (21) being retained in the rotated position: fourth

stop means including a first stop slide (91) to be inserted, in a latching manner from behind, into the housing (6) which is open on the rear side and a fourth counterstop (47; 57) on the transmission member (4'; 5'), the angular distance in the direction of rotation between the decisive first stop face (94) of the first stop slide (91) and the fourth counterstop (47; 57) being somewhat smaller than the angular distance between the third stop means (28, 48'; 28, 58');

4.2 when working with a momentary-contact rotated position with respect to the resting position, the stop means which act for the specific direction are: fifth stop means including a second stop slide (92) which, in lieu of the first stop slide (91), is to be inserted into the housing (6) in a latching manner and the fourth counterstop (47; 57) on the transmission member (4'; 5'), the decisive second stop face (95) of the second stop slide (92) being positioned before the first stop face (94) of the first stop slide (91) in the direction of rotation.

3. A modular selection button for actuating contact elements comprising

- 1 a housing (6);
- 2 a rotating handle (10; 11; 2);
- 3 a transmission member (4; 4'; 5; 5') which is non-rotatably coupled to the handle (10; 11; 2) and supported in the housing (6) and carries an axially acting switching cam;
- 4 stop means including stops which are fixed relative to the housing (6) and counterstops which can be rotated using the handle (10; 11; 2) and which serve for limiting the angle of rotation of the handle (10; 11; 2);
- 5 at least one switch plunger (81) which is supported in the housing (6) in a manner that it is non-rotatable as well as axially movable against spring means (82) and which cooperates frontward with the switching cam via a symmetrically formed end face (86), the switching cam and the end face (86) being designed in such a manner that the transmission member (4; 4'; 5; 5') latches onto the switch plunger (81) when a specific angle of rotation with

respect to the resting position is reached;

wherein

- 3.1 the transmission member (4; 4'; 5; 5') has a disk-shaped design and carries axially projecting switching cam elements (42; 52) on the rear side (41; 51),
- 4.1 when working with a latching rotated position with respect to the resting position, the stop means which act for the specific direction are:
 - 4.1.1 when using a finger-grip knob (10), a rotary knob (11) or the like as rotating handle,
 - 4.1.1.1 in the case of three switching positions: first stop means including a first stop (66) in the housing (6) and a first counterstop (14) in the handle (10; 11),
 - 4.1.1.2 on the other hand, in the case of two switching positions: second stop means including a second stop (68) in the housing (6) and a second counterstop (59) on the transmission member (5),
 - 4.1.2 however, when using a key actuator (2) as rotating handle,
 - 4.1.2.1 and with key (21) being releasable in the rotated position: third stop means including a third stop (28) which is fixed with respect to the housing (6) and a third counterstop (48'; 58') on the transmission member (4'; 5'),
 - 4.1.2.2 on the other hand, with key (21) being retained in the rotated position: fourth stop means including a first stop slide (91) to be inserted, in a latchable manner from behind, into the housing (6) which is open on the rear side and a fourth counterstop (47; 57) on the transmission member (4'; 5'), the angular distance in the direction of rotation between the decisive first stop face (94) of the first stop slide (91) and the fourth counterstop (47; 57) being somewhat smaller than the angular distance between the third stop means (28, 48'; 28, 58');
- 4.2 when working with a momentary-contact rotated position with respect to the resting position, the stop means which act for the specific direction are:
 - fifth stop means including a second stop slide (92) which, in lieu of the first stop slide (91), is to be inserted into the housing (6) in a latchable manner and the fourth counterstop (47; 57) on the transmission member (4; 4'; 5; 5'), the decisive second stop face (95) of the second stop slide (92) being positioned

before the first stop face (94) of the first stop slide (91) in the direction of rotation.

4. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 1,
wherein the second stop slide (92) has a strip-like design;
its front part is provided with the stop face (95) at the narrow side (98) with respect to the direction of rotation of the handle (10; 11); and
the second stop slide, at its rear part, features latching means (93) for engaging with corresponding mating latching means (64) of the housing (6).
5. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 2 or 3,
wherein the first and second stop slides (91; 92) have a strip-like design;
their front part is provided with the stop face (94; 95) at the narrow side (96; 98) with respect to the direction of rotation of the handle (10; 11; 2); and
the first and second stop slides, at their rear part, feature latching means (93) for engaging with corresponding mating latching means (64) of the housing (6);
and wherein the first stop slide (91), as opposed to the second stop slide (92), is provided with a notch (97) in the front part for forming the first stop face (94).
6. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 1,
wherein in the housing (6), in each case diametrically opposing each other, two identical switch plungers (81) are guided, two identical first and second stops (66; 68) are formed, and two identical mating latching means (64) for the second stop slides (92) are formed.
7. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 2,
wherein in the housing (6), in each case diametrically opposing each other, two identical switch plungers (81) are guided, two identical third stops (28) are formed, and two identical latching means (64) for the first and second stop slides (91; 92) are formed.

8. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 3,
wherein in the housing (6), in each case diametrically opposing each other, two identical switch plungers (81) are guided, two identical first, second and third stops (66; 68; 28) are formed, and two identical latching means (64) for the first and second stop slides (91; 92) are formed.
9. The modular selection button as recited in one of the Claims 6 through 8,
wherein, for three switching positions, provision is made for a first transmission member (4; 4') on whose rear side (41) are formed both switching cam elements (42) and, angularly offset therefrom, both fourth axially projecting counterstops (47), in each case in a manner that they are symmetrically offset from each other by an acute angle.
10. The modular selection button as recited in one of the Claims 6 through 8,
wherein, for two switching positions, provision is made for a second transmission member (5; 5') on whose rear side (51) are formed both switching cam elements (52) and both second axially projecting counterstops (59), in each case in a manner that they are offset from each other by 180°.
11. The modular selection button as recited in one of the preceding Claims,
wherein, for the resting position, provision is made for sixth stop means including two diametrically opposing fourth stops (70) in the housing (6) and the second counterstops (59).
12. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 1 or 3,
wherein rib segments (12) which are formed on the rear side of the handle, which is designed as finger-grip knob (10), rotary knob (11) or the like, engage in a positive-locking manner with slot segments (43; 53) which are formed on the front side of the transmission member (4; 5).
13. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 12,

wherein at least two engagement positions of the handle (10; 11) with the second transmission member (4; 5) exist, the engagement positions being offset from each other.

14. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 1 or 3,
wherein the transmission member (4; 5) is provided with a light aperture (45; 55).
15. The modular selection button as recited in Claim 2 or 3,
wherein, when using a key actuator (2) as rotating handle, a cylinder lock (22) is non-rotatably connected to the housing (6) via a cover (23);
strip-like formations (26) on the rear side of the rotatable lock core (25) engage in a positive locking manner with recesses (43'; 53') on the front side of a modified transmission member (4'; 5');
the third stop (28) is formed on the rear side of the cylinder lock (22) and the third counterstop (48'; 58') is formed on the front side of the modified transmission member (4'; 5').